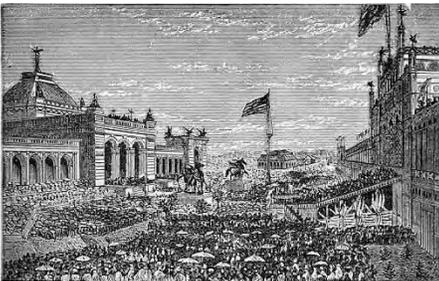


Colonial Revival (1880-1950)



Historical Origins



Opening Ceremonies at the Philadelphia Centennial Celebrations of 1876
Photograph Courtesy of Wikipedia

The Colonial Revival style encompasses a number of architectural traditions, such as English, Dutch, and Spanish colonial influences that were combined during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-centuries to create buildings that celebrated Colonial America. Thus Cape Cod cottages, *gambrel*-roofed houses, large formal Georgians, Federal townhouses, columned southern mansions, in a wide variety of one, two and three-story houses can fall under the Colonial Revival heading, so long as entrances, *cornices* and windows are outfitted with classical details.

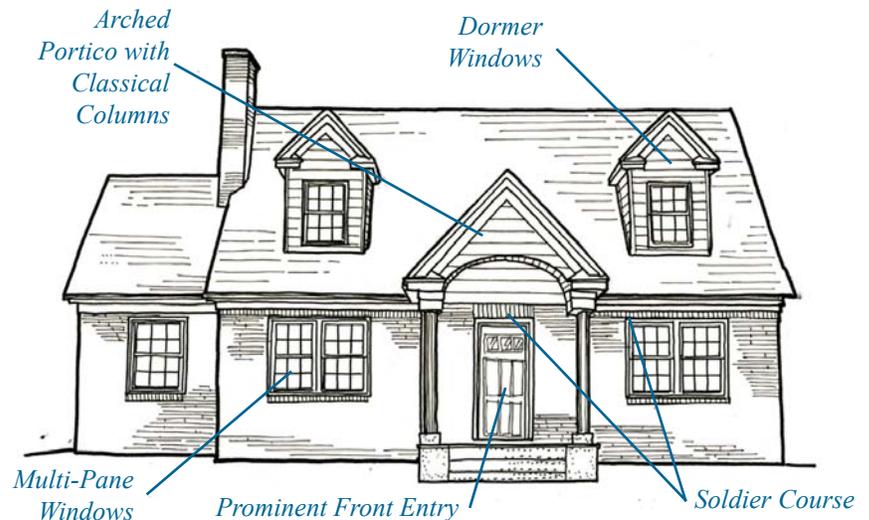
The Philadelphia Centennial celebrations of 1876 inspired patriotism that helped spark a revival of interest in Colonial American architecture that would continue into the mid-twentieth century; basically Americans began reviving their own past. Other events such as the 1893 Columbian Exposition which featured a number of buildings in the Colonial Revival style and the re-creation of Colonial Williamsburg in the early 1930s further popularized the style.

Floor plans and building materials were also easy to come by. In 1915, the lumber industry produced *The White Pine Series of Architectural*

Monographs, a monthly magazine published by the White Pines Institute. The magazine featured scholarly photos and articles on Colonial American architecture, as well as plans and measured drawings of Colonial buildings that were intended to help architects design houses with historically accurate Colonial details, with white pine products. Combined with the enormous press in the 1930s from magazines such as *Ladies Home Journal*, *House and Garden*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *House Beautiful*, the Colonial Revival style was in high demand.

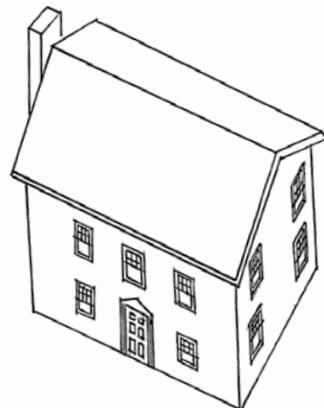
Essential Elements

- Small to large-scaled, simple *massing*.
- Symmetrical façade with orderly relationship between windows, doors and building mass.
- Classical details on doors, windows, roofline and corners.
- Prominent front entry; door with decorative *pediment* supported by *pilasters* or *portico* supported by classical *columns*.
- Multi-pane windows.

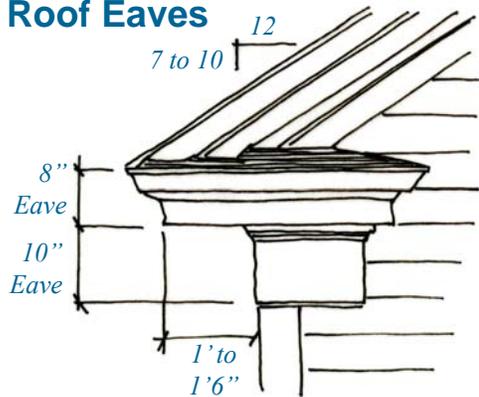


Massing & Roof Form

The Colonial Revival house is rectangular in form and one to three stories in height with a side-*gabled* roof ranging in *pitch* from 7:12 to 12:12. Sometimes a *hipped* roof is used with the same range of pitches. The *façade* will feature either three or five-*bays* with a centered door and symmetrically balanced windows. If dormers are incorporated into the roof, they are always gabled and aligned vertically with the windows and central door. Chimneys are often located at the gable ends of the houses.



Roof Eaves



Dentilled Cornice

The Colonial Revival typically has an 18 inch **boxed eave**. Dentilled, modillioned, or **bracketed cornices** and other classical details are commonly found on roof eaves and **gable end**.

Wall Cladding



Soldier Course at the Roof Wall Junction of the Eave



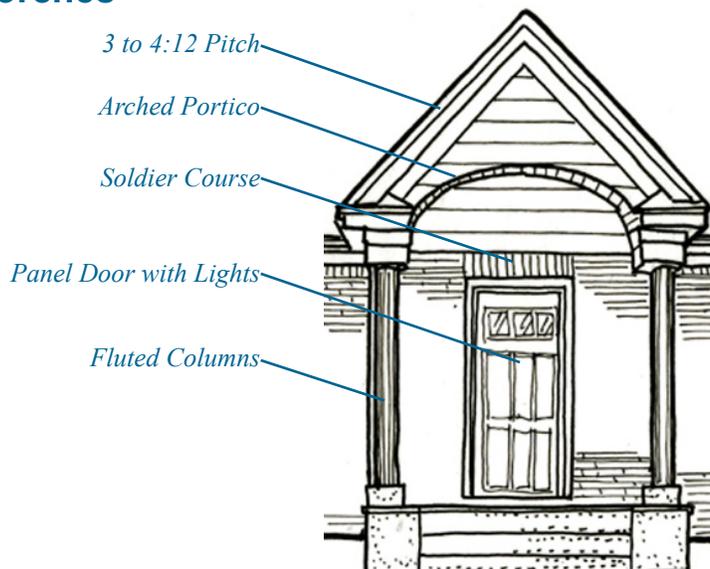
Combination of Wood Siding and Shingles



Combination of Brick and Siding with Corner Pilasters

Colonial Revival houses were typically constructed of brick, although stucco and wood siding (6 to 8 inch exposure) or combinations of these materials are also found in Roanoke. **Pilasters** or **quoins** in the classical tradition sometimes highlight the corners. Vertical brick banding (**soldier course**) at the roof wall junction of the **eave** and a **belt course** between the first and second floor are common decorative elements on the **facade**.

Porches



The Colonial Revival style omits the traditional full-width front porch and replaces it with smaller, centered **porticos**. The outdoor living space created by the front porch was moved to a side porch or sunroom. The portico consisted of classical **columns** (10 to 12 inches wide and 9 to 10 feet tall), either smooth or fluted that support an arch or an **entablature** over the front entry. Porticos can also be flattened against the house with a broken, segmental or triangular **pediment** or entablature supported by **pilasters** (flattened columns). If a railing is included, it is typically wrought iron or wooden square baluster spaced no more than 4 inches on center.



Arched Portico



Arched Portico



Entablature Portico



Broken Pediment



Segmental Pediment



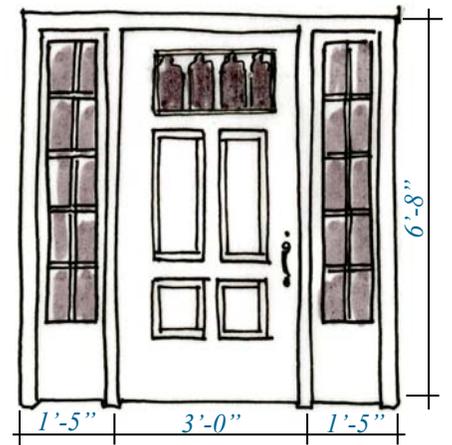
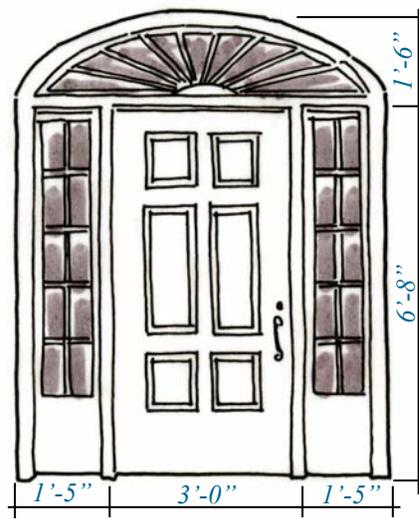
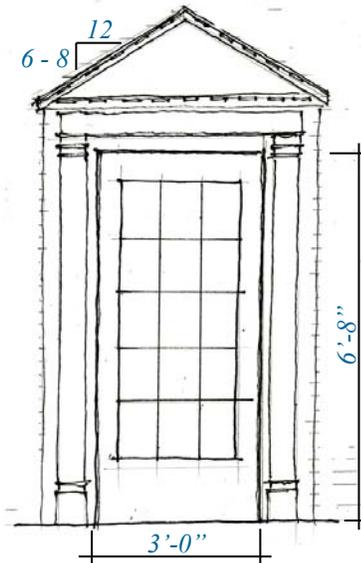
Triangular Pediment



Entablature

Doors

Triangular, segmental and broken *pediments* over *pilasters* as well as fanlight and *sidelights* often flank a six-panel door, which is centered on the façade. When a pediment and pilasters are not used, brick dwellings have a 2 inch *brickmold* and a *soldier course* at the head of the door while dwellings with siding have 6 inch straight trim.



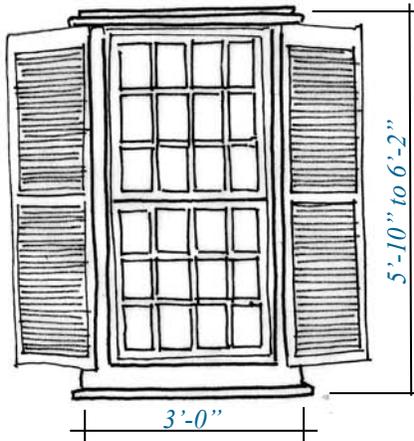
Typical Doors found on the Colonial Revival

Windows

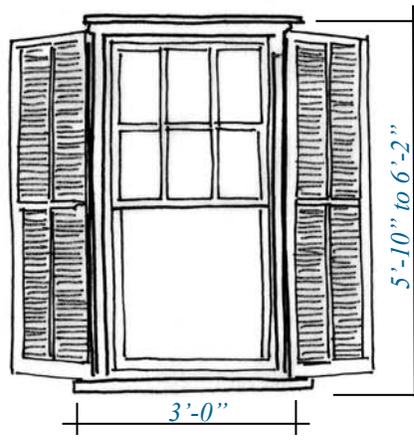
Six-Over-Six Double-Hung Window with Jack Arch and Operable Shutters



Colonial Revival windows are symmetrically placed, and frequently occur in pairs. **Double-hung** windows feature six-over-six, eight-over-eight, nine-over-nine, or twelve-over-twelve window *sashes*. Multi-pane upper sashes may also occur over a single-light lower sash. The *muntins* on Colonial Revival windows are usually thicker than other window styles. Brick dwellings typically have a 2 inch *brickmold* and a *soldier course* at the head of the window while dwellings with siding have 6 inch flat trim. Some brick homes will feature a *jack arch* over windows instead of a soldier course. Louvered wood shutters are a common feature of the Colonial Revival. Shutters should be sized and mounted to appear functional.



Twelve-Over-Twelve Double-Hung Window with Louvered Shutters



Six-Over-One Double-Hung Window with Louvered Shutters



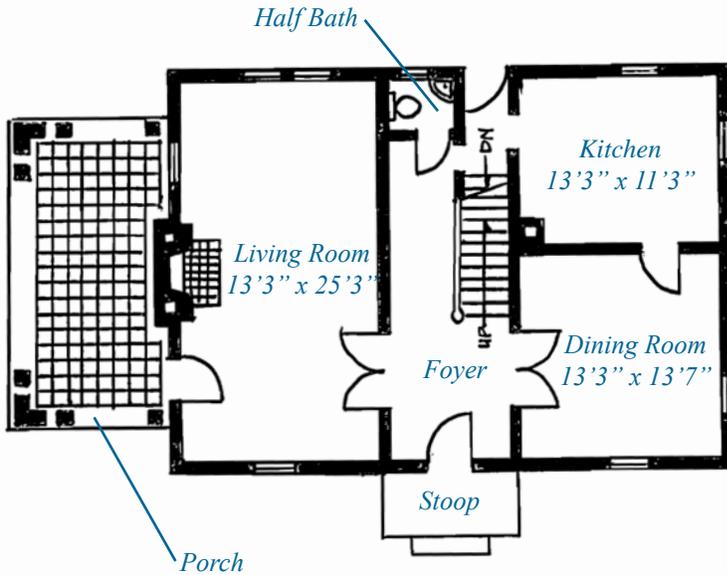
Six-Over-Six Double-Hung Window with Panel Shutters and Jack Arch

Stylistic Influences

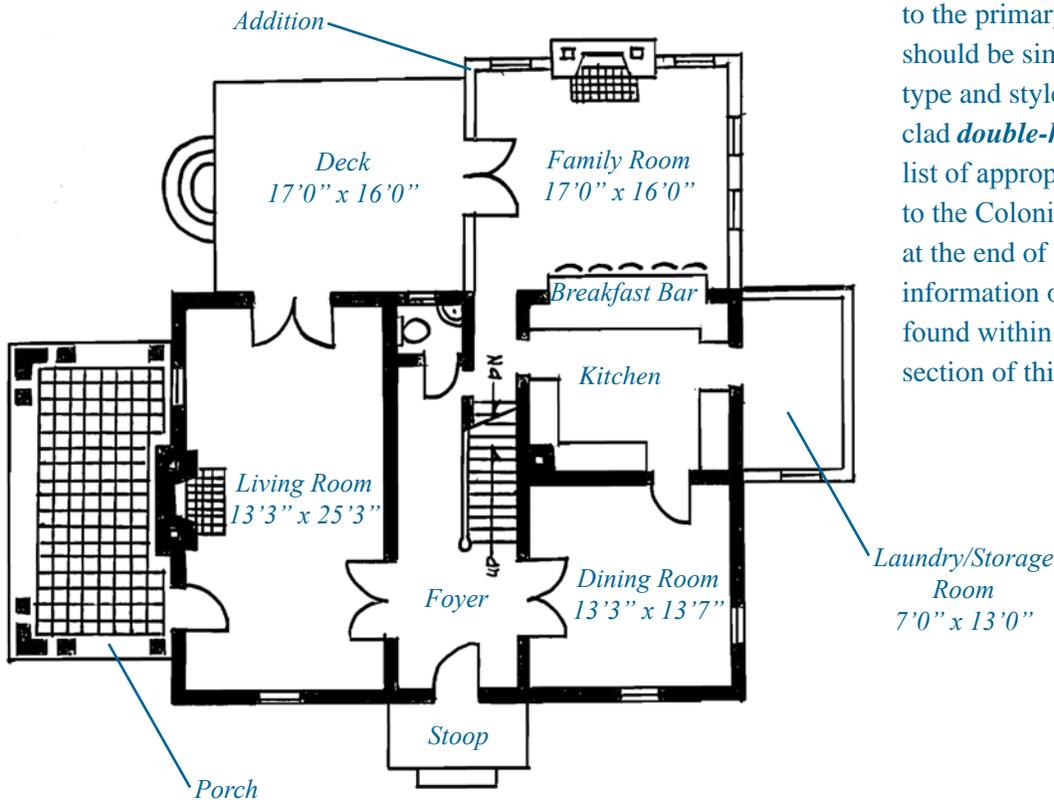


The Colonial Revival style movement embraced a number of stylistic influences. The most common influence found in Roanoke is the Dutch Colonial. These homes were predominately constructed in the 1920s and 30s and bear little resemblance to the seventeenth century Dutch farmhouses that inspired the name. Most elements of the Dutch Colonial are identical to other Colonial Revivals with the exception of their steeply *pitched gambrel* roof, shed dormer and curved *eaves*. They can also feature a full width front porch.

Additions



Existing First Floor Plan

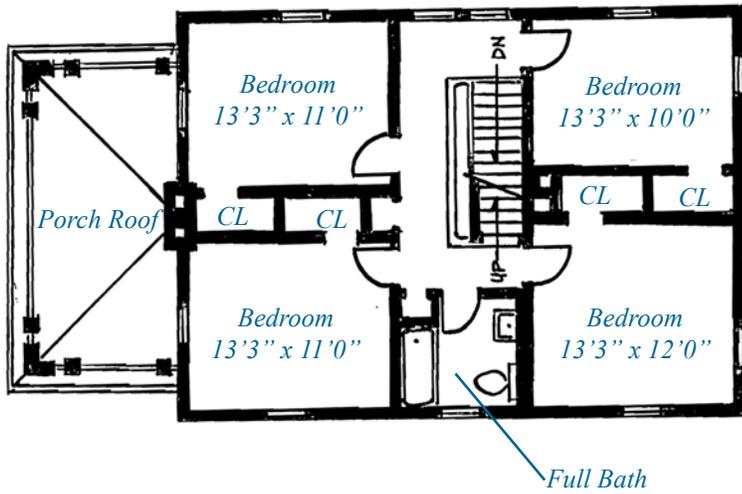


Modified First Floor Plan

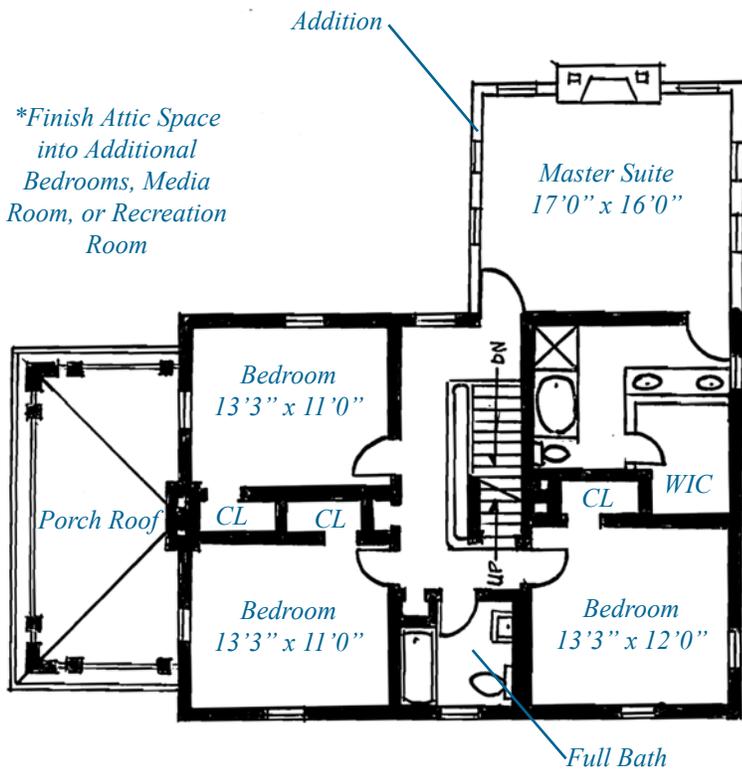
Reallocation of Existing Square Footage and Addition to a Colonial Revival

It is easy to add onto the basic rectangular Colonial Revival form with side wings, rear wings, and dormers that bring in light to upper stories and attics. Additions to Colonial Revival houses should be designed as secondary elements that respect the overall *massing* and scale of the original house. An addition should never be larger or wider than the main residence. Additions should be designed and built so that the form and character of the primary residence will remain intact if the addition is ever removed.

Roofing forms and materials should match those of the original structure if possible, with low-*pitched* roofs that are subordinate to the primary roof line. Windows should be similar to the original in type and style, employing wood or clad *double-hung sash* windows. A list of appropriate materials specific to the Colonial Revival is provided at the end of this section. More information on additions can be found within the New Construction section of this document.



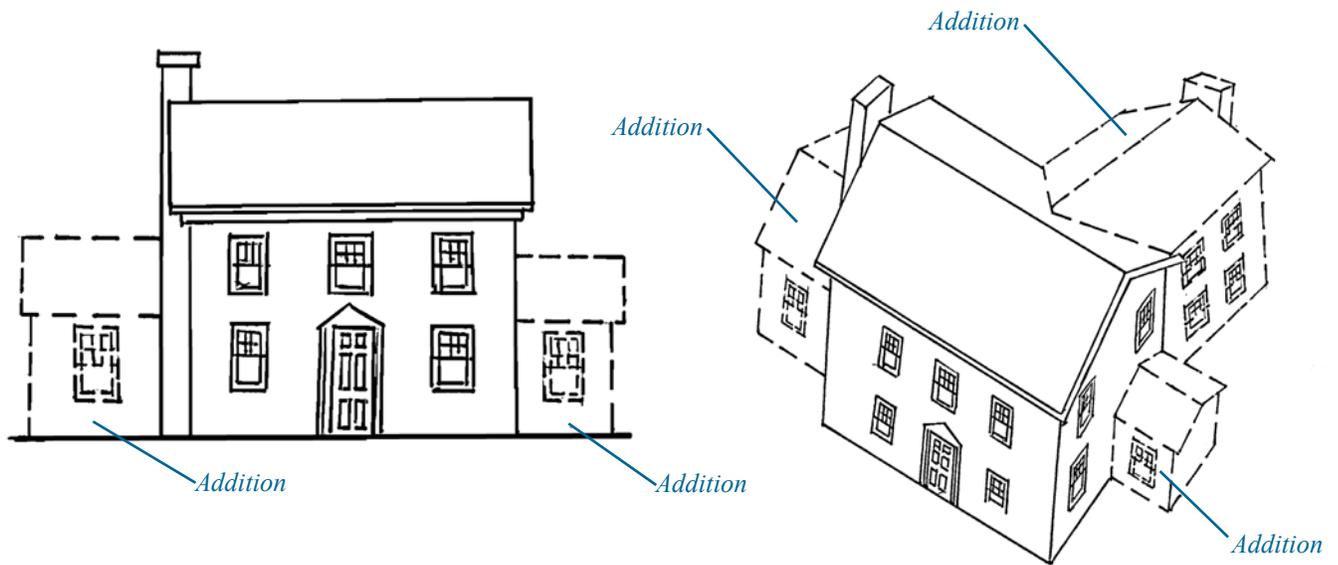
Existing Second Floor Plan



Modified Second Floor Plan



Reallocation of Existing Square Footage and Addition to a Colonial Revival

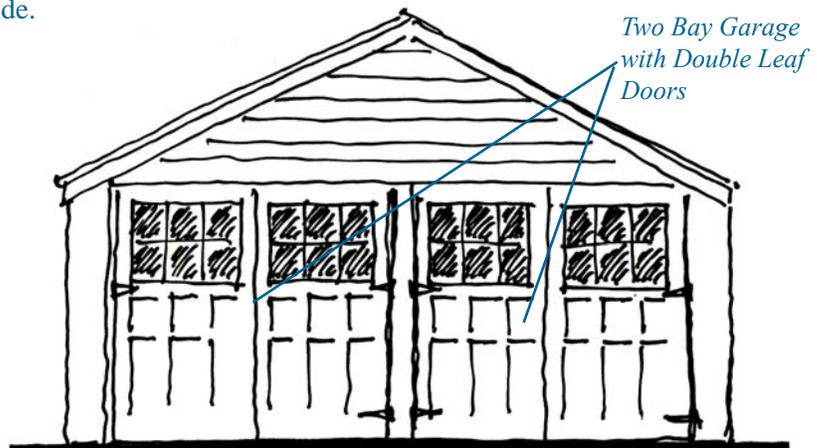


Garages

Like many other twentieth century residences, Colonial Revival houses had garages, either *one-bay* or two-bays wide. The garages were often brick to match the house with double-leaf wood doors that pulled open. The roof *pitch* is usually lower than the main house. These garages were usually located off the rear corner of the house at the end of double strips of concrete. Depending on the topography, some Colonial Revival garages were attached to the side of the building (many with an upper story room) or built into a hillside.



Attached Garage Below Main Level



Garage Location off Rear Corner of the House



Garage Built Into a Hillside



Two-Bay, Double-Leaf Door Garage

Painting a Colonial Revival

When painting any Colonial Revival house, softer colors should be used. Trim is typically painted white or ivory since this style reflects the return to classical motifs, and yellowish whites simulate ancient marble. Golds, greens, and grays are also used. Shutters are often painted green because it resembles the bronze shutters of Renaissance buildings. Doors are often painted the same color as the shutters or other trim. Unpainted brick should never be painted as it could drastically alter the home's original character and trap moisture inside walls.

Maintaining Character Defining Features

Windows and doors are among the most important character-defining features of a Colonial Revival house to maintain. They provide scale and symmetry which is so important to the Colonial Revival. The treatment of original windows and doors, their unique arrangement, and the design of replacements are critical considerations. Side porches or sunrooms are also character defining features of the Colonial Revival and should never be removed or enclosed.

Appropriate Materials



- *Roofs:* Fiberglass shingles (architectural grade), composition shingles, or slate and faux slate shingles.
- *Wall Cladding:* Smooth finish wood or fiber-cement boards with a 6 to 8 inch lap exposure. Smooth finish brick. Light sand-finish stucco.
- *Porch Ceilings:* Tongue-and-groove wood or composite boards, or beaded-profile plywood.
- *Columns:* Architecturally correct proportions and details in wood, fiberglass, or composite material.
- *Railings:* Milled wood top and bottom rails with square *balusters* or wrought iron railing.
- *Doors:* Wood, fiberglass or steel with traditional stile-and-rail proportions, raised panel profiles, and *glazing*.
- *Windows:* Painted wood, or aluminum-clad wood true divided light or *simulated divided light* (SDL) *sash* with traditional *muntin* profile (7/8 inch wide). Vinyl windows should not be used on an original Colonial Revival house because their window muntins dimensions are unusually thick and difficult to reproduce. It is especially important to retain and maintain the original wood windows.
- *Trim:* Wood, composite, or polyurethane millwork, brick, stucco, stone, or cast-stone.
- *Shutters:* Wood or composite, sized to match height of window *sash* and half window width, mounted with hardware to appear operable. Shutters are typically louvered or panel on a Colonial Revival.

Gallery of Examples

